

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (ORIGINAL) A cigarette with an increased self-extinguishing tendency, wherein the cigarette paper has annular zones whose porosity is reduced by the presence of a polymer, characterised in that the interfacial tension of the polymer is over  $33 \text{ mJ/m}^2$ .
2. (ORIGINAL) A cigarette according to claim 1 characterised in that the interfacial tension is between  $36$  and  $42 \text{ mJ/m}^2$ .
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A cigarette according to claim 1 characterised in that the polymer includes at least one of the compounds polyvinyl acetate, partially hydrolysed polyvinyl acetate or polyvinyl alcohol.
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process for producing cigarettes according to claim 1 characterised in that the polymer dissolved in organic solvent is applied to the cigarette paper by an intaglio printing process and penetrates for the predominant part thereof into the cigarette paper.
5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A cigarette according to claim 2 characterized in that the polymer includes at least one of the compounds polyvinyl acetate, partially hydrolysed polyvinyl acetate or polyvinyl alcohol.
6. (NEW) A process for producing a cigarette with an increased self-extinguishing tendency wherein the cigarette paper has annular zones whose porosity is reduced by the presence of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl acetate, partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate, and polyvinyl alcohol, wherein said compound has an interfacial tension between  $33 \text{ mJ/m}^2$  and  $42 \text{ mJ/m}^2$ , and wherein said compound is applied

dissolved in organic solvent and wherein the compound penetrates for the predominant part thereof into the cigarette paper.

7. (NEW) A cigarette including cigarette paper with an increased self-extinguishing tendency, wherein the cigarette paper has annular zones of incorporated polymer.

8. (NEW) The cigarette of Claim 7 wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl acetate partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate, and polyvinyl alcohol.

9. (NEW) The cigarette of Claim 8 wherein said polymer has an interfacial tension between  $33 \text{ mJ/m}^2$  and  $42 \text{ mJ/m}^2$ .

10. (NEW) The cigarette of Claim 7 wherein having at least 2 annular zones of incorporated polymer.